The last Speech and dying Declaration of *WILLIAM ORR*, who was executed on Saturday the 15th inſtant, near Carrickfergus, (Ireland) for the Crime of Treaſon, and delivered by himſelf at the place of execution.

TO THE PUBLIC.

'My Friends and Countrymen,

'IN the thirty-firſt year of my life, I have been ſentenced to die upon the gallows, and this ſentence has been in purſuance of a verdict of twelve men, who ſhould have been indifferently and impartially choſen; how far they have been ſo, I leave to that country, from which they have been choſen to determine; and how far they have diſcharged their duty, I leave to their God and to themſelves. They have in pronouncing their verdict, thought proper to recommend me as an object of human mercy: in return, I pray to God, if they have erred, to have mercy upon them. The Judge who condemned me humanely ſhed tears in uttering my ſentence, but whether he did wiſely in ſo highly commending the wretched informer, who ſwore away my life, I leave to his own cool reflection, ſolemnly aſſuring him and the world, with my dying breath, that that informer was foreſworn. The law under which I ſuffer, is ſurely a ſevere one; may the makers and proſecuters of it be juſtified in the integrity of their motives and the purity of their own lives; by that law I am ſtamped a Felon, but my heart diſdains the imputation.

'My comfortable lot and induſtrious courſe of life, beſt refute the charge of being an adventurer for plunder: but if to have loved my country, to have known its wrongs, to have felt the injuries of the perſecuted Catholics, and to have united with them and all other religious perſuaſions in the moſt orderly and leaſt ſanguinary means of procuring redreſs: If thoſe be felonies, I am a felon, but not otherwiſe. Had my Counſel (for whoſe honourable exertions I am indebted) prevailed in their motion to have me tried for High Treaſon, rather than under the Inſurrection Law, I ſhould have been entitled then to a full defence, and my actions have been better vindicated, but that was refuſed, and I muſt now ſubmit to what has paſſed.

'To the generous protection of my country I leave my beloved wife, who has been conſtant and true to me, and whoſe grief for my fate already nearly occaſioned her death. I leave five living children who have been my delight; may they love their country as I have done, and die for it, if needful.

'Laſtly, a falſe and ungenerous publication having appeared in a newſpaper, ſtating certain alleged confeſſions of guilt on my part—this ſtriking at my reputation, which is dearer to me than life, I take this ſolemn method of contradicting the calumny. I was applied to by the High Sheriff, and the Rev. William Briſtow, Sovereign of Belfaſt, to make a confeſſion of guilt, who uſed entreaties to that effect; this I peremptorily refuſed; if I thought myſelf guilty, I ſhould be free to confeſs it; on the contrary, I glory in my innocence.

'I truſt that all my virtuous countrymen will bear me in their remembrance, and continue true and faithful to each other, as I have been to all of them with this laſt wiſh of my heart, not doubting the ſucceſs of the cauſe for which I ſuffer, and hoping for God's merciful forgiveneſs of ſuch offences as my frail nature may have at any time betrayed me into, I die in peace and charity with all mankind.

'WILLIAM ORR.'

Carrickfergus Jail, Oct. 5, 1797.

N. B. The above declaration was made and read by Mr. Orr, in the preſence of the Rev. Mr. Sage.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It is with extreme reluctance that we addreſs the public on ſo diſtreſſing a ſubject, but having ſeen a paper printed, ſigned William Orr, which was delivered by him yeſterday, as his dying declaration, at the place of his execution, in which was this aſſertion, viz. 'I was applied to by the High Sheriff, and the Rev. William Briſtow, Sovereign of Belfaſt, to make a confeſſion of guilt, who uſed entreaties to that effect: this I peremptorily refuſed.'

We think it a duty we owe to ourſelves and to the public to ſtate preciſely the purport of our converſation with the unfortunate man, on the ſubject alluded to in his declaration, and the circumſtances that led to it.

Being at Carrickfergus on Wedneſday the 27th. ult. to attend an election of an Alderman and Burgeſſes for that Corporation, the Sheriff expreſſed an intention of going into the jail, for the purpoſe of ſeeing if the priſoner (Mr. Orr) had every reaſonable accommodation that his unfortunate ſituation would admit of, and requeſted Mr. Briſtow to accompany him. After ſome enquiries from the priſoner to that effect, and ſome obſervations on a religious book which Mr. Orr had been reading, Mr. Briſtow ſaid to him, 'Sir, I have ſeen a paper which your brother and another gentleman brought to the Sheriff on Monday laſt, with your name annexed to it, in which you acknowledged the juſtice of your ſentence, and cautioned others againſt being led into bad practices by wicked and deſigning men.' Mr. Briſtow added, that it was expected, from what your brother and that gentleman told the Sheriff, that it would have been publiſhed in laſt Monday's Belfaſt paper. 'I am confident, ſaid Mr. Briſtow to Mr. Orr, that this acknowledgment, which you had for ſome time withheld, muſt afford you great comfort.' Mr. Orr replied, 'Yes, Sir, it has relieved my mind very much.' Mr. Briſtow then ſaid to Mr. Orr, 'As you are conſcious of your guilt, it is your bounden duty, if you know of any conſpiracy againſt the ſtate, to make a diſcovery of any circumſtances you may know, which can throw any light upon it, as the only reparation you can make to your injured country.' Mr Orr replied, 'I can recollect none at preſent.' The Sheriff then ſaid—'Mr. Orr, if, upon recollection, you ſhould hereafter recollect any circumſtance of that nature which you would wiſh to communicate, I will upon application immediately attend you; or Mr. Briſtow, I am certain, will do ſo, or any other Magiſtrate of the county.' Mr. Orr replied, 'I thank you, Sir.'

This we affirm was the whole ſubſtance of what then paſſed between us and the unfortunate William Orr, and, as nearly as we can recollect, the exact words; and that we never had a converſation with him on that ſubject at any other time.

The truth of this whole ſtatement we are ready (if neceſſary) to atteſt in the moſt ſolemn manner.

C. SKEFFINGTON,
High Sheriff of the County of Antrim.

WILLIAM BRISTOW,
Sovereign of Belfaſt.

Belfaſt, Oct. 15, 1797.

In order to put the truth of this ſtatement beyond a doubt, the above gentlemen confirmed it by oath before a Magiſtrate.